

Please amend the specification as follows:

The first full paragraph on page 1 has been amended as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of both U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/474,061, filed on December 29, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,350,379 and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/398,459, filed on September 17, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,423,225.

The third paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 has been amended as follows:

Urged against the filter element support 34 is a first filter element 40 which is a full flow filter element. The first filter element 40 has a diameter less than the diameter of the housing 12 so that a gap providing an annular inlet channel 42 is created between the filter element 40 and the inner surface of the wall of the canister 12. The first filter element 40 is comprised of an annular small particle filter media 44 having a first hollow core 46 therein and having first and second ends closed by first and second end caps 48 and 50. The first end cap 48 is urged against the annular support 34, while the second end cap 50 is annular defining a hole 52 therethrough, which hole receives a first flow-deflecting element 56 disposed internally with respect to the filter elements 40 and 70. The first flow deflecting element 56 has a first end 58 that projects into the first hollow core 46 and a second end 60 which projects and below the first filter element 40 to impact a non-axial component to fluid flowing out of the filter media 44. The flow 56 has a radially projecting flange 62 which rests on the flange 50 so as to be sandwiched between the first filter element 40 and a second filter element 70.

The first full paragraph on page 5 has been amended as follows:

A The second filter element 70 which is stacked herewith beneath the first filter element 40 ~~and~~ has a portion of the annular inlet channel 42 therearound and has an annular sludge removing filter media 72 which defines therein a second hollow core 74,

which second hollow core 74 communicates with the first hollow core 46 through the flow-altering element 56. The second filter element 70 has a first end closed by a first annular end cap 76 which has an opening 78 therethrough which receives the second end 60 of the flow-altering element 56 and abuts the top surface of the radial flange 62 so as to clamp the flow-altering element in place with the second end 60 of the flow-altering element received within the hollow core 74 of the first annular filter media 72. At the second end of the sludge removing filter media 72 is a second end cap 80 which is configured as a closed disk without a center opening. The second end cap 80 is engaged by a coil spring 82 which abuts the closed second end 16 of the canister 12 to urge the second filter element 70 against the radial flange 62 of the flow-deflecting element 56 that in turn abuts the first filter element 40 and holds the first filter element against the filter element support 34.

On page 7 the second full paragraph has been amended as follows:

In order to further increase capacity and efficiency of the filter cartridge 10, an external array 120 of fins 122 provides a second deflector in the form of a centrifugal separator which is positioned in the gap providing the annular inlet channel 42 just downstream of the inlet openings 20 adjacent to the first end cap 48. The array 120 of fins 122 imparts a rotational motion to the fluid 99 prior to the fluid entering the first filter element 40 so that the fluid spirals in the direction of arrows 123 around the first filter element causing relatively large particles to migrate centrifugally toward the inner surface 124 of the cylindrical wall 126 comprising the housing 12 instead of passing through the small particle filter media 44 of the first filter element 40. Accordingly, it is mostly smaller particles of dirt or contaminant that pass through the first filter element 40.

On page 7 the third full paragraph has been amended as follows:

The fluid continues to spiral as it moves in the gap providing the annular inlet channel space 42 toward the second filter element 70, keeping a substantial quantity of large particles away from the second filter element so that the second filter element mainly traps sludge in the sludge removing filter media 72, a substantial portion of the large particles remaining suspended in the oil near the surface 124 of the canister wall 126 and never passing into the second filter element 70.

On page 7 the fourth full paragraph has been amended as follows:

The large particles which have avoided filter elements 40 and 70 pass through a an end gap 130 between the end cap 80 of the second filter element 70 and the surface 124 of wall 126. The particles then become trapped in a chamber 134 defined by the domed second end 16 of the housing 12. The end gap 130 is maintained by the spring 82 which urges the second filter element 70 against flange 62 of the flow deflecting element 56 which in turn abuts the first filter element 40 to urge the first filter element against the filter element support 34. Since the chamber 134 is beneath the second filter element 70, the heavy particles settle out and accumulate against the inner surface of the domed end 16.